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## **Agencies Seek Documentation on Impacts of Feral Dogs on Wildlife in Southern California**

The Desert Managers Group (DMG), a consortium of State and Federal agencies, are soliciting information from the public documenting impacts of feral/uncontrolled dogs on wildlife, domestic animals and humans throughout the California Deserts.

The DMG has been receiving increased reports of human and wildlife encounters with uncontrolled/unrestrained and possibly even feral dogs in the deserts of southern California. Initial information indicates confrontations between people and these types of dogs and between these dogs and domestic animals and wildlife have occurred from Edwards Air Force Base to Barstow to Joshua Tree National Park. These reports show that humans and domestic animals have been threatened or harmed and wildlife has been harassed, injured or killed.

To assess the seriousness of this threat and determine the areas of the desert where encounters with dogs are occurring, the DMG has developed a one-page incident report form, available on its website at [www.dmg.gov](http://www.dmg.gov). The DMG is asking for the public's help in utilizing this form to report past and current incidents/encounters with uncontrolled, unrestrained or feral dogs.

You may return the completed form by mail to Glenn Black, Senior Environmental Scientist, Calif. Dept. of Fish & Game, 3602 Inland Empire Blvd., Suite C 220, Ontario, CA 91764-4913, by fax at (909) 481-2945, or by email to [gblack@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:gblack@dfg.ca.gov). The DMG will be collecting this information through August of 2005, and will post a synopsis of findings on its website once the information is analyzed.

The DMG was established to provide a forum for various government agencies to work together to conserve and enhance the California deserts for current and future generations. The DMG is working to manage wild burro population, restore damaged habitats, clean-up illegal dumps, protect cultural resources, provide public information and education, address critical scientific questions, monitor desert tortoise populations and integrate multi-agency budget requests.

Participating agencies in the DMG include the State of California's Department of Fish and Game, Department of Parks and Recreation, and Department of Transportation, the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, and U.S. Geological Survey within the Department of the Interior, and Edwards Air Force Base, China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, Fort Irwin and the National Training Center, the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twenty-nine Palms, and Marine Corps Logistics Base, Barstow within the Department of Defense.

For more information regarding feral dogs contact Glenn Black at (909) 987-7449.